



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE

## MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

1424 Howe Avenue, Suite 35, Sacramento, CA 95825-3237

Telephone: (916) 561-8780 FAX: (916) 263-2671

CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE BY TDD: 1-800-735-2929

E-mail: [pacommittee@medbd.ca.gov](mailto:pacommittee@medbd.ca.gov)Website: [www.physicianassistant.ca.gov](http://www.physicianassistant.ca.gov)**Citation Order**

**Name:** Bulger, Steven Lee  
**Address:** 8512 Ridgefield Place  
San Diego, CA 92129

**License Number:** PA-11719

**Citation Number:** 04-06

**Modified Citation  
Number:** 04-06a

**Case Number:** 1E-05-169484

Richard L. Wallinder, Jr., issues this citation solely in his official capacity as Executive Officer of the Physician Assistant Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee."

**License History:**

The records of the Committee show that license number PA-11719 was issued to **Steven Lee Bulger** on July 29, 1985 and will expire October 31, 2006 if not renewed.

**Citation:**

A citation is hereby issued to you in accordance with Title 16 California Code of Regulations, Section 1399.570 for the violations described below.

**Cause for Violation:**

Violation of Title 16, Division 13.8 California Code of Regulations sections:

1399.540, limitations on medical services (i.e. competent performance of medical services).

1399.541, medical services performable.

This case was initiated based on an 801 Report of Settlement, Judgment, Or Arbitration received by the Medical Board of California. The report alleges that you administered Phenol instead of Tetracaine in a patient's ear resulting in ear damage and hearing loss.

The records indicate R.G. presented on July 9, 2003. R.G was diagnosed with chronic serous otitis media. After being treated with medications such as Allegra D and Nasonex, R.G was a candidate for treatment by a procedure called myrinotomy and placement of a PE tube. In preparation of the myrinotomy, you were instructed by Dr. Tesar to administer anesthetic (Tetracaine) drops into R.G's left ear prior to the procedure. You administered Phenol into the ear instead of the Tetracaine.

The records indicate that you realized the medication error and immediately advised Dr. Tesar. Dr. Tesar rendered treatment of saline lavage and additional treatment continued for several weeks.

A Physician Assistant Expert Consultant reviewed the documentation and medical records. The expert indicated that Phenol (carbolic acid) is a corrosive organic acid used widely in medicine that denatures proteins and causes chemical burns. The consultant concluded that you departed from the standard of care by inadvertently administering the wrong medication in R.G's left ear.

### **Order of Abatement**

The Committee orders you to take the following corrective actions:

1. Submit in writing what steps you have taken or will take to ensure that Phenol will not be administered instead of Tetracaine to patients.

Unless contesting the citation, failure to abate the violation charged within sixty (60) days of date of your receipt of this document may be deemed to constitute a violation of the Physician Assistant Regulations. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Committee or other appropriate judicial relief being taken against you.

### **Fine**

You are assessed a fine in the amount of **\$500.00** as provided by Title 16 California Code of Regulations Section 1399.571 for violations of Sections of 1399.540 and 1399.541 of the California Code of Regulations.

Unless you contest this fine, payment in full by cashier's check or money order must be received by the Committee within thirty calendar days of the Citation's issuance. Payment should be made payable to:

Physician Assistant Committee  
1424 Howe Avenue, Suite 35  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Attn: Dianne Tincher

For your protection, please remember to include the Citation number on your check or

money order.

Payment of any fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

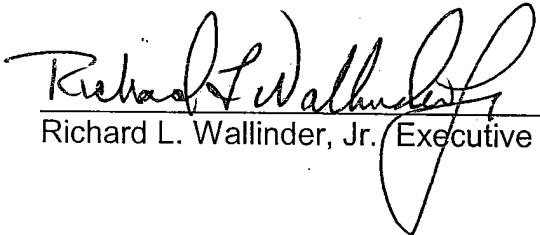
If you fail to pay the fine within thirty calendar days from the date of assessment, unless under appeal, the full amount of the fine will be added to your license renewal fee or initial license fee, whichever is applicable. The renewal or initial license will not be issued until the appropriate fee, the administrative fine, and the delinquency fee (if appropriate) are paid.

### **Appeal of Citation**

You have the right to contest all or portions of the citation through informal conference, formal appeal, or both. If you wish to contest this citation, you must complete, sign, date, and return the enclosed Notice of Appeal form(s), or any other written notice of appeal, to the Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after service of the citation. Should you need additional time in which to complete and return the appeal notice(s), please notify the Executive Officer of the Committee immediately at (916) 561-8786.

The day the Notice of Appeal form(s) or other written notice of appeal is received by the Committee is the day that the appeal process shall commence. However, any order of abatement stipulation(s) and/or fine(s) assessed for violations not being contested must be adhered to and/or paid as specified.

If the Citation is not appealed it becomes a final order of the Committee and shall not be subject to further administrative review or judicial relief initiated by the Committee.

  
Richard L. Wallinder, Jr. (Executive Officer)

11/30/15  
Date